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Promoting a Naturally Healthy New Year via *MassGrown & Fresher*

On January 1st, 2012, the Departments of Conservation, of Public Health, and of Agricultural Resources signed a joint resolution with the mutual goal of encouraging people to maintain a healthy lifestyle through year-round outdoor recreation and quiet enjoyment in our state parks and eating locally grown and produced agricultural products. We have pledged to commit our agencies to collaborate on opportunities that promote physical, emotional, and nutritional health of our residents, visitors, and of course our own employees!



Fresh, wholesome, locally grown and produced agricultural products are a key component to achieving the above mentioned goal. To this end, MDAR is very proud to have developed the *MassGrown & Fresher* website where consumers can find farmers' markets, local farms, artisan cheese makers, apple orchards, and much more. There are also many outdoor agri-tourism destinations for the family to enjoy for recreation.

Please consider book-marking www.mass.gov/massgrown for your personal use and/or forward on to others. If your you or your organization has a website, we would also appreciate your consideration of creating a hyperlink on your site! For a web-friendly version of the *MassGrown & Fresher* logo, please contact Rick LeBlanc at 617-627-1759 or Richard.LeBlanc@state.ma.us. Go Local and Happy New Year!

Ag Promo Board Meeting – Jan. 18th

Next meeting of the Ag Promo Board will be held on Jan. 18th, 2012 at 1pm at the MA Farm Bureau Federation offices, 249 Lakeside Ave., Marlborough, MA, 508-481-4766.

It is important that **ALL commodity groups**, buy locals and other Ag Day stakeholders participate in this meeting, if you want your group's name printed on the Ag Day mug, and to be visible on April 3rd. Please spread the word to other commodity groups that you may deal with so that they may have a voice on this board and participate in this event. Come prepared to finalize logistics, suggest any honorees, and finalize the preview, reception and speaking programs. Please complete your [sponsorship form](#) and bring it for Jeff Cole if you have not already done so. Suggestions may be sent to Doug@mfbf.net.

We do have new and improved CONFERENCE CALL capabilities, for those who wish to participate by phone. Dial 661-673-8600 and when prompted enter Participant Code 572085# and you will be connected to the meeting via our new speakerphone system. We hope that you will be able to attend this important meeting.

Energy Audit Workshop – Jan. 18th

Energy Audit Workshop with CISA, 5:30-8:00 p.m., MDAR Amherst Office, 101 University Dr. Suite C4. This workshop will review energy audit options that can help assess energy saving and renewable energy options on your farm by looking at energy use, financial savings, recommendations, and payback periods for equipment upgrades. Discussion will include an overview of assessments offered by MFEP, public utilities, and USDA-NRCS. To register contact Devon Whitney-Deal at CISA: devon@buylocalfood.org or 413-665-7100 x22.

Winter Flower Growers' Program – Jan. 25th

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Russell's Garden Center, Wayland, MA

A program for all growers and retailers of greenhouse crops! Sponsored by The Massachusetts Flower Growers' Association and University of Massachusetts Extension Greenhouse Crops and Floriculture Program.

Education....Pesticide Credit.....Open Houses at area greenhouses.....Allied Trade Tables....Social Networking (off-line!)
Topics: Perennial production, Russell's organic vegetable program, Retail Panel on how to bring new customers to your garden center, Town Hall Meeting with the audience discussing marketing, labor, business management and more. Program/details: extension.umass.edu/floriculture/

Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom Position Available

Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom (MAC) is seeking a part-time Program Assistant to support several new School Gardens Initiatives that include: a directory of school gardens and resources; a How-to-Manual for Getting Started in the School Garden; Lesson Plans for Grades 1-4; Professional Development Workshops; and direct garden mentoring. Read more at http://www.aginclassroom.org/html/html/Awards_Grants/Position%20Description.pdf.

Seeking Farmer/Farm Manager

Allandale Farm (www.allandalefarm.com) seeks a farmer/farm manager. The successful applicant will have good organic practice field experience, mechanical aptitude and equipment operation skills. S/he will be a mature individual with five or more years of hands-on experience including managing staff. Knowledge of Spanish shall be considered an advantage. Allandale Farm is a traditional family farm of 30+ acres under cultivation on the home farm located on the Boston/Brookline, MA line. There is a large CSA retail and wholesale market. Applications to john@allandalefarm.com.



MDAR's mission is to ensure the long-term viability of agriculture in Massachusetts. Through its four divisions – Agricultural Conservation & Technical Assistance, Agricultural Markets, Animal Health, and Crop and Pest Services – MDAR strives to support, regulate and enhance the rich diversity of the Commonwealth's agricultural community to promote economically and environmentally sound food safety and animal health measures, and fulfill agriculture's role in energy conservation and production. For more information, visit MDAR's website at mass.gov/agr, and/or follow at twitter.com/agcommishsoares. For our ongoing list of events and workshops visit and bookmark: www.mass.gov/agr/events/coming_up.htm.